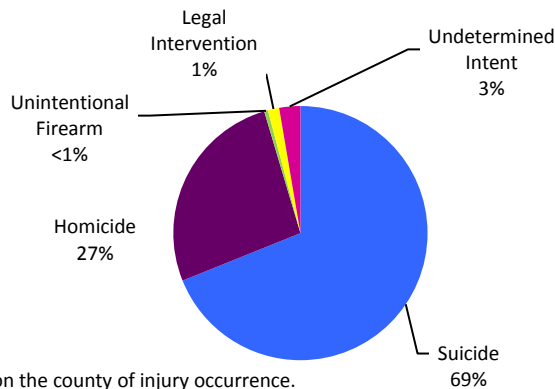


# VIOLENT DEATH IN NORTH CAROLINA: WAKE COUNTY INCIDENTS: 2004-2013

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is a CDC-funded state-wide surveillance system that collects detailed information on deaths that occur in North Carolina resulting from violence: homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm deaths, legal intervention and deaths for which intent could not be determined. NC-VDRS is a multi-source system that gathers information from death certificates, medical examiner reports, and law enforcement reports. The goal of this system is to aid researchers, legislators and community interest groups in the development of public health prevention strategies to reduce violent deaths. All deaths reported in this document are based on location of *occurrence* rather than residence and, instead of a rate, the occurrent ratio is reported. This statistic is derived from the total number of violent deaths resulting from injuries in a specified geographic region divided by the number of residents in this region. This document summarizes all fatal injuries from violence that occurred in Wake County for the years 2004-2013.

## Manner of Death: Wake County, N.C.: NC-VDRS, 2004-2013\*

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\*Based on the county of injury occurrence.

- For years 2004-2013, there were 1,042 violent deaths from injuries sustained in Wake County. Of these 1,042 deaths, 1,021 were N.C. residents (98.0%), and 956 were Wake County residents (91.7%).

- There were 718 suicides (68.9%), 276 homicides (26.5%), five unintentional firearm deaths (0.5%), 15 deaths from legal interventions (1.4%), and 28 deaths of undetermined intent (2.7%).

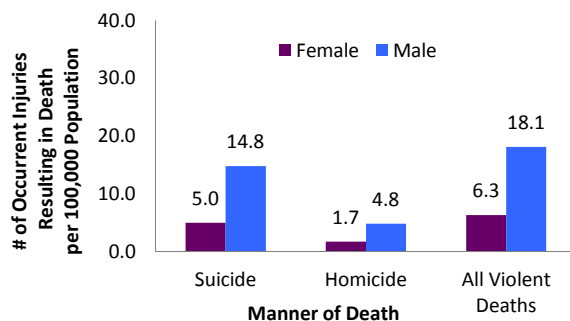
- In Wake County, the suicide ratio was 3.0 times higher in males than females, and the homicide ratio was 2.8 times higher in males than in females.

- Patterns of suicide and homicide differed by race. Suicide victims were more likely to be white than black. Whites had 11.4 suicides per 100,000 population versus 5.5 suicides per 100,000 population in blacks. All other racial groups combined had 24 suicides.

- In contrast, blacks had 7.7 homicides per 100,000 population as opposed to whites who had 2.0 homicides per 100,000 population. All other racial groups combined had 11 homicides.

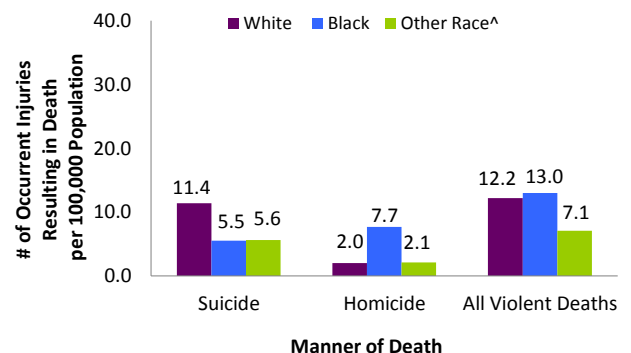
## Manner of Death by Sex: Wake County, N.C.: NC-VDRS, 2004-2013\*

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## Manner of Death by Race: Wake County, N.C.: NC-VDRS, 2004-2013\*

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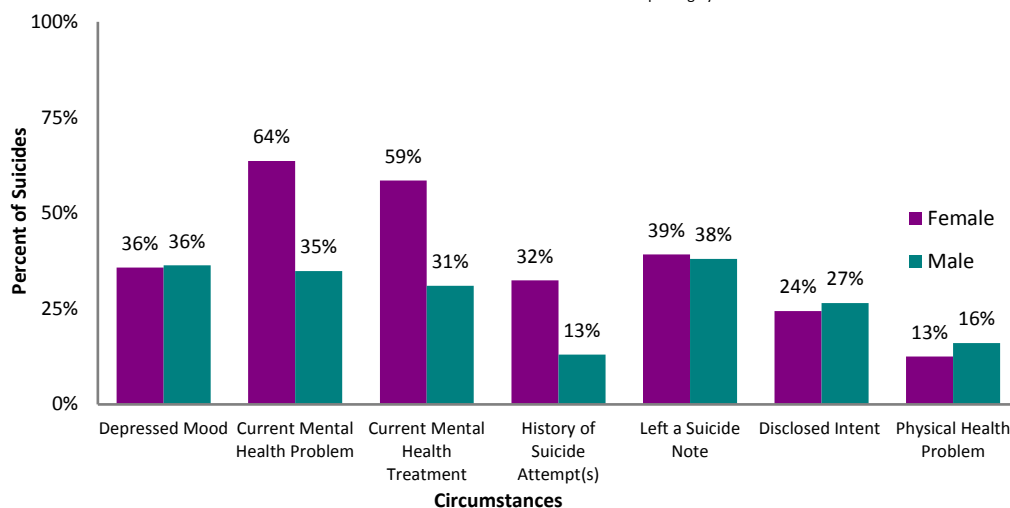
\*Based on the county of injury occurrence.

^Other race refers to American Indians, Asians, other races, and unspecified or unknown race.

- Suicides and homicides displayed dissimilar age patterns. Homicides peaked among those 20-24 with 9.3 homicides per 100,000. Suicides (13.4 per 100,000) peaked among those 55-64 and 75-84 years.
- Most homicides (62.3%) and nearly half of suicides (47.4%) were committed using firearms.
- Suspicion of intoxication was reported in 28.6 percent of homicides and 26.5 percent of suicides.
- For homicide incidents where one or more suspects were identified, the relationship of the victim to the suspect was known (current or former spouse/boyfriend/girlfriend, family, friend or acquaintance) more frequently for female (69.7%) than male (53.8%) victims.

### Circumstances of Suicides: Wake County, N.C.: NC-VDRS, 2004-2013\*

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\*Based on the county of injury occurrence. 89.7% of cases had circumstance information. Thirteen females and 61 males were missing circumstance information.

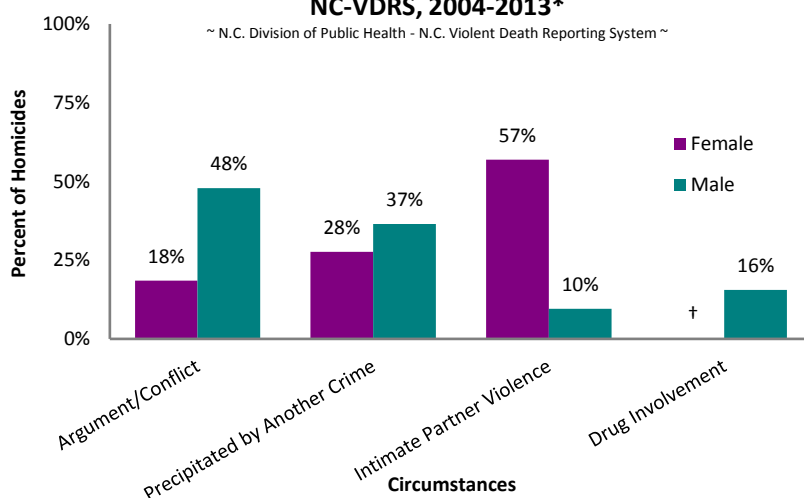
- Thirty-six percent of male and 35.8 percent of female Wake County suicide victims with circumstance information were characterized as being currently depressed when they completed suicide.

- Sixty-four percent of female and 34.8 percent of male suicide victims were characterized as having a current mental health problem.

- Females (32.4%) were more likely to have attempted suicide in the past as compared to males (13.0%).

### Circumstances of Homicides: Wake County, N.C.: NC-VDRS, 2004-2013\*

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\*Based on the county of injury occurrence. 84.1% of cases had circumstance information. Thirty-five males and nine females were missing circumstance information.

†The number of deaths was less than or equal to 5 and not able to be calculated.

- Arguments or conflicts were more likely to be a contributing factor for male homicides (47.9%) than for female homicides (18.5%).

- Twenty-eight percent of female homicides and 36.5 percent of male homicides were precipitated by another crime such as robbery, burglary or drug trafficking.

- Intimate partner violence was a contributing factor in 56.9 percent of female homicides, but only 9.6 percent of male homicides.

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System is supported by Cooperative Agreement 5U17/CE002613-02 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

N.C. Division of Public Health / [www.publichealth.nc.gov](http://www.publichealth.nc.gov) / Injury Epidemiology & Surveillance Unit/ 919-707-5425

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